

and extending between the working roll and the nip, and being biased towards the web-absent position;

a stop arm, said stop arm being mounted for movement between first and second positions, responsive to movement of said web-sensing member; and

a transfer arm mounted adjacent to the main feed roller, said transfer arm being biased toward and movable into a transfer position, wherein movement of the transfer arm into the transfer position is operative to drive a leading end portion of sheet material web extending from said reserve roll into the vicinity of the feed nip such that upon driving of the main feed roller, the web from the reserve roll is carried through the feed nip, the transfer arm being held in a set position by the stop arm when said stop arm is in the first position, and being released from the set position to move to said transfer position upon said stop arm moving into said second position.

3. (Amended) The web transfer mechanism of claim 1, wherein said web-sensing member comprises a sensor plate that is pivotably mounted adjacent a first edge thereof, and a second edge opposite said first edge contacts said pre-feed portion of sheet material web.

4. (Amended) A web transfer mechanism for providing, in a flexible sheet material dispenser, automatic transfer of web feed from a working roll to a reserve roll, comprising:

a main feed roller and a second roller forming a feed nip for receiving therethrough a sheet material web;

a sensing mechanism including a sensor plate movable between a web-present position and a web-absent position, said sensor plate resting, in the web-present position, on a

pre-feed portion of sheet material web extending between the working roll and the nip, and being biased towards the web-absent position;

a stop arm, said stop arm being mounted for movement between first and second positions, responsive to movement of said sensor plate; and

B 2 a transfer arm mounted adjacent to the main feed roller, said transfer arm being biased toward and movable into a transfer position, wherein movement of the transfer arm into the transfer position is operative to drive a leading end portion of sheet material web extending from said reserve roll into the vicinity of the feed nip such that upon driving of the main feed roller, the web from the reserve roll is carried through the feed nip, the transfer arm being held in a set position by the stop arm when said stop arm is in the first position, and being released from the set position to move to said transfer position upon said stop arm moving into said second position, wherein

said sensor plate is pivotably mounted adjacent a first edge thereof, and a second edge opposite said first edge contacts said pre-feed portion of sheet material web, and

chassis components of said dispenser form a receptacle for retaining a working stub roll, and said sensor plate extends across, and forms a movable cover over, said receptacle.

B 3 11. (Amended) The web transfer mechanism of claim 1, wherein said stop arm includes a coupling end, a stop end and an intermediate pivot axis, said coupling end being depressed to said second position by the web-sensing member moving into the web-absent

position, said stop end being disposed to maintain the transfer arm in a set position spaced from said main feed roller when the stop arm is in said first position.

**IN THE SPECIFICATION:**

Please amend the paragraph on page 8, line 18 as follows:

B4 Figure 7 is a top plan view of the stop arm shown in Figure 6, but with elongated slots 77 not shown.

**IN THE ABSTRACT:**

Please amend the abstract to read as follows:

B5 An automatic web transfer mechanism in a flexible sheet material dispenser includes a web-sensing member operatively coupled with a transfer arm. The member senses the absence of web from a stub roll at a pre-feed portion between the stub roll and a feed roll nip to activate a transfer of feed to the web of a reserve roll. The transfer is initiated by a transfer arm that advances the reserve web into the proximity of the feed roller nip. In a second aspect, a movable front shield opens automatically upon opening of the outer dispenser cover, presenting an opening for pre-transfer placement and retention of a leading edge of web material from the reserve roll. Upon closure of the dispenser cover, the front shield returns to a closed position placing the transfer arm in a pre-transfer set position.

**REMARKS**

Reconsideration and allowance of the application are respectfully requested. Claims 1-16 are pending. Claims 2 and 9-16 were previously withdrawn from consideration as directed to a non-elected invention. Claims 1, 3, 7 and 8 stand rejected. Claims 4-6 have been objected, but indicated as containing allowable subject matter. Claims 1, 3, 4 and 11, the specification and the Abstract are amended herein.

Applicant has amended the Abstract to reduce its length (as required by the Office Action) and to otherwise improve its form.

The Office Action indicated that corrected drawings or a formal drawing correction are required in reply to the Office Action. Applicant is simultaneously filing formal drawings which incorporate the drawing changes previously approved.

The Office Action indicated that claims 4, 5 and 6 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant has amended claim 4 accordingly, and claim 4 is now allowable. Claims 5 and 6 depend from claim 4, and thus are also allowable.

The Office Action rejected claims 1, 3, 7 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by Cornell (U.S. Patent 4,403,748). Cornell fails to teach features recited by claim 1. For example, Cornell fails to teach a web-sensing member movable between a web-present position and a web-absent position, and which rests (in the web-present position) on a pre-feed portion of sheet material web that is spaced from the working roll and extends between the working roll and a feed nip. Instead, Cornell describes a diameter-responsive transfer mechanism. A wire "transfer

frame” 70 has an arm 71 with a pair of rollers 74. The rollers 74 are held in a loop of web material coming off of, and resting upon, a stub roll. The arm 71 is connected by a linkage to a transfer arm 81. As the diameter of the stub roll decreases, rollers 71 gradually move downward, ultimately pulling the transfer arm (and connected web from a fresh roll 10) into feed position. When the stub roll is finally depleted and the transfer arm is moved into feed position, a significant length of stub roll web remains for double feeding with web from the fresh roll. In contrast, because the web-sensing mechanism of the present invention contacts the web at a position between the working roll and the feed nip, less web remains for double feed from the working roll when transfer to the reserve roll occurs. The use of a stop arm and transfer arm in conjunction with the web sensing mechanism, as recited, facilitates this placement of the web contact point.

For at least these reasons, claim 1 is allowable. Claims 3, 7 and 8 depend from claim 1, and are allowable for the same reasons as claim 1, and further in view of novel features recited therein. For example, claim 3 recites that the web-sensing member comprises a sensor plate that is pivotably mounted adjacent a first edge thereof, and that a second edge opposite the first edge contacts the pre-feed portion of sheet material web. Cornell does not teach or suggest a sensor plate. Claim 7 recites that the sensor plate includes a web sensing finger movable into a slot of the sensing mechanism, another feature not taught or suggested by Cornell. Claim 8 recites a plurality of such web sensing fingers and slots.


In the October 2, 2000 Office Action imposing a restriction requirement, the Examiner indicated that rejoinder of non-elected dependent claims would be considered upon allowance of

an elected independent claim. In view of the allowability of claim 1, non-elected dependent claims 2 and 9-14 should now be rejoined.

**CONCLUSION**

For all of the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that this application is now in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner believe that anything further is desirable in order to place this application in better form for allowance, he is respectfully urged to telephone Applicant's undersigned representative at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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Attachment:

Marked-Up Version of Amendments Made